REMARKS

I.   Introduction

Claims 1, 4-5, 9, 13-14, 17-18, 22, 26-27, 30-31, 35, 39-40, 42-43 and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. U.S. Patent 4,706,121 ("Young") in view of Richards et al. U.S. Patent 5,179,654 ("Richards").

Claims 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Palmer et al. U.S. Patent 6,320,588 ("Palmer").

Claims 2, 6, 7, 15, 19, 20, 28, 32, 33, 41, 44, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Richards, and further in view of Palmer.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 16, 27 and 40 to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicants' claim amendments introduce no new matter and are fully supported by the originally filed specification. See page 21, line 32 to page 22, line 6. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims 1, 16, 27 and 40 in their unamended form in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants have canceled claims 9, 22, 35, 46 and 48-51. Features of canceled claims 9, 22, 35 and 46 were incorporated into their respective base claims.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims 48-51 in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. The Rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4 -7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-47

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-5, 9, 13-14, 17-18, 22, 26-27, 30-31, 35, 39-40, 42-43 and 46-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Richards. Claims 2, 6-7, 15, 19-20, 28, 32-33, 41 and 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Richards, and further in view of Palmer. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as defined by amended independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 relates to providing help information that explains to a user of an electronic television program guide how the electronic television program guide operates. The program guide tracks the current operating point of the electronic program guide, where the electronic television program guide has a plurality of operating points as, for example, the user navigates in the guide. A user input is received and in response to the user input, the help information is provided. The help information

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that is provided "is based on the current operating point" of

the program guide. Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40, emphasis added.

Young relates to a TV schedule system and process

that is able to display help information to a user. As

pointed out by the Examiner, when the user selects key PG 224

on keyboard 220, help information is displayed at the bottom

of the screen. See col. 12, lines 36-43. However, as

conceded by the Examiner, Young does not show that the help

information provided depends on the state of the guide or on a

tracked current operating point at which the user enters the

input. The Examiner, therefore, relies on Richards to show

this feature.

Richards relates to providing help to users of a

data processing system. Richards addresses deficiencies in

prior systems that failed "to provide easy location of

alternative or related help at the same level as the

contextual help initially provided." Col. 1, lines 58-60.

Richard attempts to improve upon prior systems by displaying

help information and also providing the user with access to a

help map. The help information is provided from a help text

store that uses the state of the system to obtain appropriate

help. See col. 2, lines 36-39. The help map provides

alternative and related help information that the user may

select. See col. 2, lines 49-56.

To provide the appropriate help, the Richards system

addresses the help text store by a key obtained from a key

table to which system variables are applied. See col. 3, lines 19-21. The system variables, which define the current state of the system, are set in response to a user selection of "F1" twice (i.e., indicating a request for contextual help). See col. 8, lines 58-65, emphasis added, and col. 13-14, S.Help.* description for Invocation of Help program. The system variables are used to find a key from a Help Index table, and the key is used to extract Help Text corresponding to the key. See col. 9, lines 5-10. If the user wants more specific information, the user may view a Help Map of related help topics to identify a more particular topic for which the user needs help. See col. 9, lines 17-18. In response to a user selection of a topic, the system variables are reset to correspond to the selected topic, and the system identifies the appropriate key and associated Help Text. See col. 10, lines 11-13.

Applicants therefore submit that Richards provides contextual help by setting a system variable defining the current state of the system when the contextual help function is called (emphasis added). In direct contrast, applicants' claimed invention requires the program guide to track the current operating point of the electronic program guide, and to provide contextual help "based on the current operating point" of the program guide. See claims 1, 14, 27 and 40, emphasis added. Richards does not at all disclose, teach, or suggest tracking a current operating point of the electronic

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program guide and providing help information based on the current operating point, as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 14, 27, and 40 and dependent claims 2, 4-7, 9, 13, 15, 17-20, 22, 26, 28, 30-33, 35, 39, and 41-47 should be found allowable over Young and Richards. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-47 should be withdrawn.

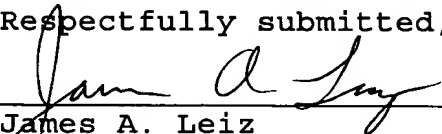## III. The Rejections of Claims 48-51

The Examiner rejects claims 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Palmer.

Applicants have canceled claims 48-51. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 26-28, 30-33, 35, and 39-47 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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